



DELAWARE
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

News Release

DelDOT Public Relations

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January 25, 2008

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Bicycle-Friendly Rumble Strips Scheduled for Route 1

Dewey Beach – Delaware Department of Transportation (DelDOT) Secretary Carolann Wicks announced that DelDOT will install 11.5 miles of bicycle-friendly rumble strips throughout a 17-mile corridor from just south of Dewey Beach to just north of Fenwick Island. While the department has installed rumble strips in other locations that warrant it, these will be the first bicycle-friendly rumble strips installed in Delaware. The cost is estimated at \$50,000 and construction is expected to begin Monday, Jan. 28 and take five days, weather permitting.

The type of rumble strip to be installed will be what is recognized nationally as bicycle-friendly, due to the unique mix of vehicle traffic as well as cyclist and pedestrian use. A typical rumble strip is 12 inches from the edge of the white shoulder line, 1/2 inches deep and 16 inches wide. These rumble strips will be 8 inches from the white line, 3/8ths inches deep and 12 inches wide. Also, these rumble strips have 10-foot gaps every 30 feet to allow cyclists to more easily traverse the roadway. This design gives more room for cyclists along the shoulders while not sacrificing safety. Rumble strips are not appropriate in developed areas of this corridor because it would require too many breaks for driveways, intersections, and other entrances.

Delaware and the nation have recognized over the last several years the value of adding rumble strips, and in Delaware we have installed these in other areas of heavily traveled roadways. Nationally, a surprising 42 percent of fatal crashes result from vehicles traveling off the roadway. In Delaware, Run-Off-The-Road crashes account for 37 percent of the total fatal crashes.

DelDOT's review of this corridor indicates that of the 179 crashes between January 2004 and December 2006, 60 were Run-Off-The-Road crashes, resulting in one fatality. However, nine of 60 crashes involved a vehicle striking a cyclist that was outside the travel lane. Not included in the above statistics was a July 2007 crash one mile north of the Indian River Inlet Bridge where a motorist apparently fell asleep, drifted onto the shoulder and struck and killed a cyclist.

When it became clear rumble strips were appropriate for this corridor, DelDOT immediately reached out to the cycling community – including the Delaware Bicycle Council and Sussex Cyclists -- for input. The result was a design that is functional without compromising safety.

For information write to DelDOT Public Relations at dotpr@state.de.us , or 800 Bay Road, Dover, DE, 19903, or call 302-760-2080 or 800-652-5600.

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